GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
CRASH OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
Chaliha Shri Kirip;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions when MiG fighter aircraft,including MiG-21 of the Indian Air Force have crashed in the past two years and the current years;

(b) the details of the casualities, monetary loss caused due to the crashes and compensation paid by the Government;

(c) whether the reasons for the crashes have been ascertained;and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the rising trend of MiG crashes?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 238 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2008.

A total number of 18 MiG series fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force(IAF) have crashed in the past two years and the current financial year (till 5th December,2008).In these accidents 2 pilots were killed.

Apart from the loss of the aircraft,a total amount of Rs. 12,10,709/- were paid as compensation by the Government.

The major causes of these crashes are Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH).

Each aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly to check their recurrence in future.Besides,a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety.Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels,ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufactures (OEMs),both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.